

WASATCH COUNTY—Heber

The Wasatch County Daughters of Utah Pioneers was organized in Heber City on May 27, 1920. From that day forward the members of this organization have worked faithfully to establish a relic room. The first room for display of relics was located on the second floor of the old tithing office. This building stood on the east side of Heber City's Main Street at First North. When this building was sold, the DUP organization was given a room in the seminary building by Stake President J. R. Murdock, who was especially interested in their work and in the preservation of the history and relics of early pioneers. The relics, originally placed in the southeast upstairs room of the seminary building, were later shifted to a northeast room. Here they remained until 1978, when it was decided to tear the building down to make a city park.

In 1978, the county DUP obtained a long-term lease on a building known as the Heber Social Hall. This building had been constructed in 1906-07 to meet the growing needs of auxiliary organizations of the Heber City wards. Built of red sandstone from the quarries east of the city, each stone was hand-chiseled and squared, and each layer in the building had to be of the same thickness. Most of the work was done by volunteer labor.

The huge floor was built with more than four hundred coil springs under the floor, and each piece of flooring had to be carefully placed. While the floor was being constructed, the work continued day and night. The women helped by providing delicious meals to the workers. Through the years, the hall has

proven to be a meeting place for many social and cultural events in Wasatch County.

In the spring of 1965, it was decided to demolish the Social Hall and the old stake tabernacle to build a new stake center, but there was so much opposition to destroying these buildings that another site was selected for the new stake center.

The county gave the Wasatch Senior Citizens a twenty-five-year lease on the Social Hall in 1978, and at that time an agreement was consummated between the senior citizens and the DUP to provide the balcony in the north end of the building for a permanent home for the DUP relics. Over five thousand dollars was spent by the Daughters in renovating the balcony, paneling the walls and carpeting the floor.

In 1981, under the direction of President Fae V. Jiacoletti, First Vice President Nellie N. Taylor, Second Vice President Lois Fox, Secretary-Treasurer Elna Hector and other county officers and camp members, the job of organizing the relic room began. Moldings were installed and pictures were hung on brass hangers to cover the north wall of the room. The south portion was divided into three sections, one for kitchen artifacts, one for living room articles, and one for miscellaneous items. As a security measure, wrought iron gates were installed at the end of both stairways leading up to the relic room.

The relic room was completed and ready to display for County Fair Days, August 1981. This museum is located at 90 North 100 West, Heber City, Utah.

—Fae V. Jiacoletti